IN THE BEGINNING

Published Quarterly By
Woodson County Historical Society
Yates Center, Kansas
Vol. 8 - No. 30

IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 8 - No. 30 April - 1975

Lester A. Harding - Editor

EDITOR'S NOTES

The marking of a red X in this spot has brought in quite a few of the subscription renewals. However, there are quite a few left that have not sent in their renewal.

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The Yates Center Centennial Committee created a special Centennial Book Committee to get out a souvenir book or booklet to be available for the public to buy. But as we announced in the last issue of In The Beginning we would make this one a Yates Center edition we will try and do just that. The Centennial Souvenir will probably be considerable larger than this edition.

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THE COVER PICTURE - During the week of the celebrating of the 50th Anniversary of the founding of Yates Center, the citizens of Yates Center erected a memorial over the graves of Abner Yates and his wife in the city cemetery. This was a measure to do honor to the father of Yates Center and to perpetuate his memory. The memorial is a five foot granite monument, and is a combination of dark Quincy and light Barre granite. Two markers have also been engraved to be placed at each of their graves.

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We are endebted to Earl Depew for the use of the majority of the pictures used in this issue. They had belonged to his father W. H. Depew. The July issue will probably also be mostly about the Yates Center Centennial.

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The Centennial Committee have selected the main celebration for the Centennial to be the week of August 17-23. The Centennial parade will be in conjunction with the 4-H Parade during time of the Woodson County 4-H Fair, which will no doubt be on July 30. The various committees are planning on having activities at different times before the main event.

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WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Organized March, 1965

The Woodson County Historical Society has completed a full ten years, and we believe that it has been a successful ten years. The 1974 membership reached an all time high with 265 paid up members. Down through the ten years there has been 355 different people taken out memberships. Of this total we have lost 46 by death. That leaves 44 that did not continue their membership. We do not consider that a bad average for the ten years.

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The Historical Society November meeting was held at the Woodson Hotel on November 19. Mr. & Mrs. Virgil Winfrey presented the program with colored slides of some of their trips in the U.S. and Canada.

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The first meeting of the Woodson County Historical Society for 1975 was rather a kickoff for the Yates Center Centennial. The meeting was held at the Woodson Hotel on Tuesday evening, January 28, with 51 present for the dinner and 12 came after. The Senior Bells of the Senior Center entertained with old familiar songs. The entire group joined in a few of them.

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The Bi-annual election of officers resulted in the re-election of the same officers. President, Lester A. Harding; Vice-Pres., Virgil Winfrey; Secretary, Helen Herring; and Treasure, Elmer F. Krueger. Leo Collins and Phyllis Gustin were re-elected as Directors. Margaret Wilson and Metta Boughton were chosen as assistants to make plans in keeping the museum open this year.

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Forty people that have been chosen on the twenty different Yates Center Centennial Committees are members of the Woodson County Historical Society. As are three of the four members of the Centennial Executive Committee. There has been a good response from the people in the Yates Center area to help in the Yates Center Centennial planning.

Join and Support
Woodson County Historical Society

Life Membership $25.00 Regular Membership $2.00 a year

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF YATES CENTER —

If it had not been for Abner Yates it is hard to tell just what and where the county seat of Woodson County would be. Abner Yates was a real estate broker from Jacksonville, Illinois, and started buying and selling land in this county in the 1860's. It was in August, 1867, that Abner Yates and C. H. Pratt, obtained a patent for the southwest quarter of section 11, Twp. 25, Range 14. Yates also obtained land in sections 10, 14 and 15, having the land on all four corners of the exact center of the county.

With the county seat contests going on between Neosho Falls, Kalida and Defiance, an effort was being made to bring the county seat to the center of the county. The southwest corner of the southwest quarter of section 11, was in the exact center of the county. One of the main boosters for the county seat to be brought here was Frank Butler who lived on the Butler Ranch along Owl Creek about three miles to the northwest.

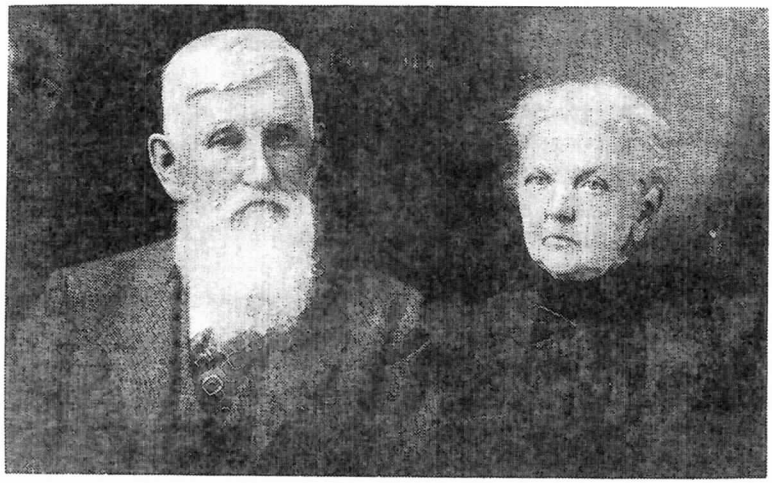
Abner Yates was convinced that if he would plot out the townsite that it would become the next county seat. However, in the election of November 5, 1867, the southwest quarter section of section 11, had received 118 vote for the county seat, but with Neosho Falls keeping that position by having 129 votes. No more attempts were made for the county seat at the Centre, until 1875, after Kalida and Defiance each had the honor for a short time.

It was in August, 1875 that Abner Yates had the townsite surveyed and plotted by the County Surveyer, D.M. Ray. It was on August 16 of that year that Abner Yates dedicated the townsite in the presence of two men, Peter Bell, a Notary Public, and Frank Butler, mentioned above.

The county election for the county seat occurred on August 18, 1875, with the results being- Defiance 235, Neosho Falls 301 and Yates Center 335. This gave Yates Center a start for becoming a town, and the county seat. This fact was recorded on the books at the county seat of Defiance on August 20, 1875.

However by the time another year had passed away the clamor for another election came up for a showdown between Yates Center and Neosho Falls. This election occurred on September 12, 1876. This was a very hotly contested election with the results of-Neosho Falls 426 and Yates Center 488.

This election seemed to decide the county seat as no more contests were held. The court house was not moved here from Defiance until 1878. The county offices were held in different buildings around the public square.



Abner Yates and wife Mary

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Abner Yates was born in Gallatin County, Kentucky, on August 4, 1819. His parents, Henry Yates and Millicent Yates were cousins and both natives of Virginia. Henry was 20 years old and his bride 18, when they left the Virginia home and traveling by horseback into Kentucky, and following the Kentucky River to where it joins the Ohio River. Here in company with another man, Henry Yates laid out a town called Fredericksburg. In later years it was changed to Warsaw, Kentucky.

Here Henry Yates built a log cabin, in which most of their eleven children were born. When Abner was 12 years old the family moved to Illinois.

In 1851 Abner Yates was married to Miss Mary Geers. They were the parents of two children, Mary M., who became the wife of John B. Dobyns, and William H. Yates.

Henry Yates had wanted at least one of his large family to attend college. There were two that did-Abner and Richard, Abner's older brother. Richard Yates became the Civil War Governor of Illinois. The biography of this Richard Yates and family is in the Woodson County Museum.

While working in his father's merchantile store in Illinois, Abner Yates also started dealing in real estate. As told on page 3, Mr. Yates began trading in land of Woodson County in 1867. Yates and Pratt obtained the land on all four corners of the center of the county in 1867.

When the townsite of Yates Center was plotted out, on this sandstone hill, it was mostly all covered by native bluestem, with small groves of blackjack oak to the north and east. There was no house within a mile of the town. Realizing that there had to be a start somewhere Abner Yates had the first building moved on the site the first fall from the town of Kalida. It was a two-story frame structure and located it on the southwest corner of the square just to the east of where the Baker Drug Store is.

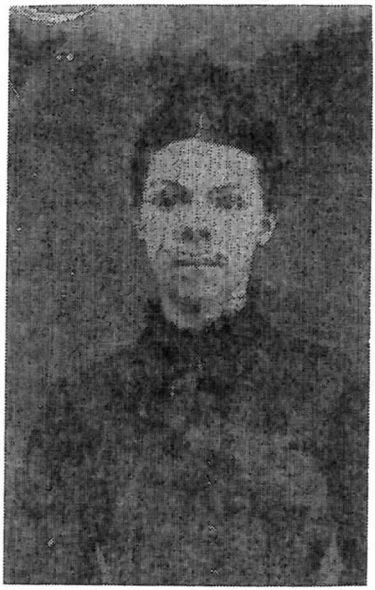
Here it was used for many purposes-for county business, for school, church and general meeting purposes.

Mr. Yates wanted to name the town Butler, after Frank Butler who worked hard to get the county seat here, but Butler with some of the other boosters held out for the name of Yates and the center of the county, making it Yates Center.

The Stockebrand's and Laubers used to herd sheep over what in now the townsite of Yates Center. An old friend of ours Charles Stockebrand told that as a boy he was out looking for some stray cattle in the blackjacks, and looking to the south he saw people moving houses in with horses and oxen. Some of the people wanted to move their houses from Kalida to the new townsite but did not have the facilities to do so. H. T. Chellis, carpenter and handyman, told them of a way. They went to the timber, cut down large trees, and these they would saw cross-wise into "slices" or wheels, probably 6 to 12 inches in thickness. Holes were bored through the exact center, then stout poles were cut the length needed and were fitted in these round wheels and placed under the house to be moved.

These were pulled by several teams of horses or oxen with men going along side to see that the house would not tip over as they would move them over the prairie to the new townsite. The first of these houses was moved by Henry Wille, to the northwest corner of the square where the Woodson Hotel stands. Henry Wille's two daughters, Mary, who married Harve Johnson, Adda Wille, and their sister-in-law, Mrs. George Wille, were the first women to spend a night on the new townsite.

The second house was moved in and occupied by the George Wille family where the State Exchange Bank now is. W. H. Kay moved and occupied the third house moved in from Kalida and put where the telephone building now is. The fourth house in Yates Center was across the street south from the third. This lot for this house was given by Abner Yates to Albert Dryden for he was the first boy born in Yates Center.



Albert Dryden, the first child born in Yates Center and Fannie Dryden, mother of Albert Dryden.

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We have not learned the name of the father of Albert Dryden. He evidently died when Albert was a small boy. Albert had a younger brother Ed. Mrs. Fannie Dryden had a milliner store on the east side of the square for awhile, then moved to the south side of the square, where she carried on quite a business in the making and dressing up of ladies hats. Mrs. Dryden and sons left here. Mrs. lived awhile in Fredonia. Albert Dryden died in Buffalo in 1940.

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Each church organization was given a lot to build a place to worship. The Christian Church was the first to erect a building. That was started in fall of 1877. This stone building almost 98 years old is the present Woodson County Museum. The Central House was the first hotel erected was operated by C. W. Wilson. George Wille had the first general store. Dr. E. V. Wharton and Attorney Jesse Pickett

were the first ones of their profession to open up an office. The first school in District 51, was upstairs over the J. W. Depew store. This was in 1876. The stone schoolhouse built in 1876, is still being occupied as a residence on West Rutledge.

The first post office was organized in 1876, with Thomas W. Wilson as postmaster. Another source told that Wilson opened the first store. It was in the first building that Abner Yates moved into the new town.

The first newspaper was the Weekly News, with Rhet Baker as the editor. That was in February, 1877.

The first fraternity organization in Yates Center, coming here from Kalida was, Gilead Lodge No. 144, A.F. & A.M.

The stone building in this picture was the first schoolhouse in Dist. No. 51, in Yates Center. The frame building was added sometime later.

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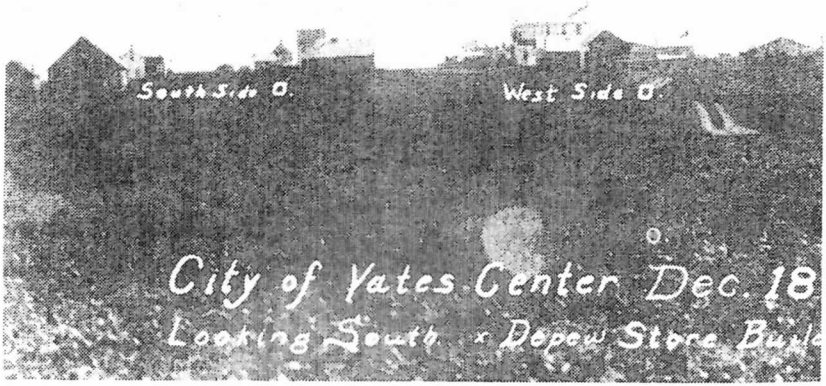
The Yates Center News of October 6, 1882, carried this notice, "Our schools opened Monday with an enrollment in the several departments of one hundred and sixteen. The board have rented the new stone building of Julius Schmidt, near the court house for the primary school Miss Harris' department. This is not the best locality in town, but the best they could do at present. (This is the stone building told about in the story of "Smokey Row" on page 11.



The first known photograph of the town of Yates Center. This picture was taken from along what is now North State Street. Possibly near what is now State and Sanderson. The date on the picture is Dec. 1875, but it should have been 1876. For the two story white building marked as the Depew Store Building on the west side was not moved there until 1876. When Thomas Wilson established the first post office and became the first postmaster of Yates Center he sold his merchandise to J. W. Depew. Mr. Depew went to the town of Defiance, the last county seat before Yates Center where he purchased an abandoned two story building and moved it to Yates Center. Being too long to move easily the building was sawed in two sections. Each of these sections were skidded across Owl Creek, and then hauled by team to the location on the west side of the square. The square fronted building to the left of center on the south side of square was the first building moved into the town by Abner Yates. Wagon tracks can be seen to the right of the picture. This was evidently the wagon trail coming down the slope and crossing the low place where the railroad tracks now are. In the story of the railroad coming it told of the survey lines following the ravine from the east. The small frame building just above the words "West Side Square" is evidently the first house moved into the new town by Henry Wille. And was there that three ladies of the Wille family had the honor of being the first ladies to spend a night in the new town of Yates Center.

THE COMING OF THE RAILROAD TO YATES CENTER-1881 —

The first railroad to reach the town was sometime past six years from the time that Yates Center became a town. In June, 1881, the only cross-country railroad became a reality in the county, made a proposition for the subscription of bonds to its stock. This road, the St. Louis, Ft. Scott and Wichita asked $28,000 of Center and $22,000, of Toronto. The measure was met with a small amount of opposition in either place and was passed by 124 to 71 in Center and 64 to 14 in Toronto.

The following exerps were taken from the Yates Center News of 1881. Slavens and Fry were the editors and publishers; - June 9, three or four Indians passed through town Wednesday morning. —The railway surveyors will commence work between Iola and yates Center Wednesday.

There seemed to be some doubt that the railway company would build a depot here until the following appeared in the paper. —"In consideration of Abner Yates making, executing and delivering to the St. Louis, Ft. Scott and Wichita Railroad Co., a good and sufficient warranty deed for the North half of block No. 35 in the city of Yates Center, Kansas for depot purposes. It is agreed on the part of said company that the depot and the side tracks will be located on the above described land. J. D. Hill, attorney for said railroad."

June 16— In surveying the line it was found that in a distance of one mile and three hundred feet the railroad track has to raise 94 feet, to get to the top of the hill into Yates Center. The engineers think that the best route into town will be from the east until the William Stockebrand place is passed then to come up the ravine on the north side of town.

Mr. Yates has given the railway company 40 acres of land adjoining the town on the west also a block for depot grounds. Mr. Yates returns to Jacksonville, Ill. today, but will again visit us during the summer. He thinks of moving here and making his home among us.

July 28— Railroad surveyors are setting grade stakes between this point and Cherry Creek.

Aug. 4 —The railroad will run through town on the street north of the Taylor House. (Where Swope Implement is)

The railroad contractors have erected a store building in the east part of town to supply hands with provisions. A large number are located on the hill adjoining town and Fry's Addition appears to be more populous than the old town. Many of the workers are living in tents.

August 18, 1881— The right-of-way for the railroad has been all secured.

Sept. 1— Mr. Abner Yates arrived in town last Thursday, and is pleased with the railroad prospects.

Most of the railroad camps have moved to the vicinity of Toronto.

Brockman and Harder cases against the Railroad Company have been compromised. (These two farms were near the present Durand).

Nov. 17— "Two attempts have been made to throw the cars off the tracks near the Owl Creek bridge. One night last week as the engine was backing down grade it ran into a bridge timber placed across the track and this Friday night a tie was placed on the track. The person who done this is endangering the lives of all who travel on the railroad and if caught ought to be hung."

The Railway Company offers a reward of $500 for the arrest and conviction of anyone who places obstacles on the track.

Taylor has put down a platform at the Railroad near his hotel. Also he fixed a walk from the square to his hotel.

The depot was built where the Yates Center Elevator is now located. The first hotel to follow along the railroad tracks was the Western House, that was operated just across the street east of the depot, and to the south. The Western was a two story building.

January 26, 1882— Four new passenger coaches have arrived at Ft. Scott for the Wichita Railroad and a full passenger train will be put on in a few days, also carrying mail to this place.

February 10, '82— The railroad company expects to put up a large water tank west of the Taylor House. They offer use of it in case of fire if our citizens will buy a large hose sufficient in length to reach any place on the square.

Anyone wishing to buy lots from me in Yates Center will please call at the Central Hotel where I will be for a few days. —Abner Yates.

February 20— James and Frank Cannady have the contract for digging the well for the railroad tank just north of the News office.

The Cannady Brothers, contractors completed the tank well on Saturday. It is 13 feet in diameter, depth 29 feet. Water rising to a depth of seven feet. (This well is still usable and is just to the west of the Swope & Son Implement building.

SMOKEY ROW —

Sometime through the years of the 1880's and 1890's the area in the block where the present post office was built was nick-named as "Smokey Row." Where the post office building is stood a frame building occupied by the Stuart Bakery. To the north of it stood a native stone two-story building. The lower floor was divided into two rooms. The south part was occupied by the John Shenk Butcher shop. The Shenk family lived upstairs over the shop. The north part of the stone building was occupied by the Salvation Army. There was also living rooms over this room.

To the east of the Stuart Bakery was the Bon Ton Restaurant for awhile. A blacksmith shop and the City Hall for awhile were along this row.

Where the Public Library now stands was the A. B. Reid Carriage and Wagon Shop. Wm. Carr was the blacksmith and Harry Bryant was the carriage maker in this shop.

It was mostly in the alley between the carriage shop and the row of businesses, that was the 'smokiest' as they all burned coal, and the steam from the bakery helped out.

Another account of what was called Smokey Row is recorded in later years.

Yates Center News-July 5, 1906 —

A restaurant belonging to Nate McRay across the street from the jail caught fire and burned to the ground. The livery stable belonging to Charles Harris, a new building also burned to the ground. It was a shame that this fine barn had to burn, with a stream of water so near at hand running through town. One fire plug would have cost the city $16.00, would have saved Harris $1200. (The town fire department evidently nearby for the engine room also burned.)

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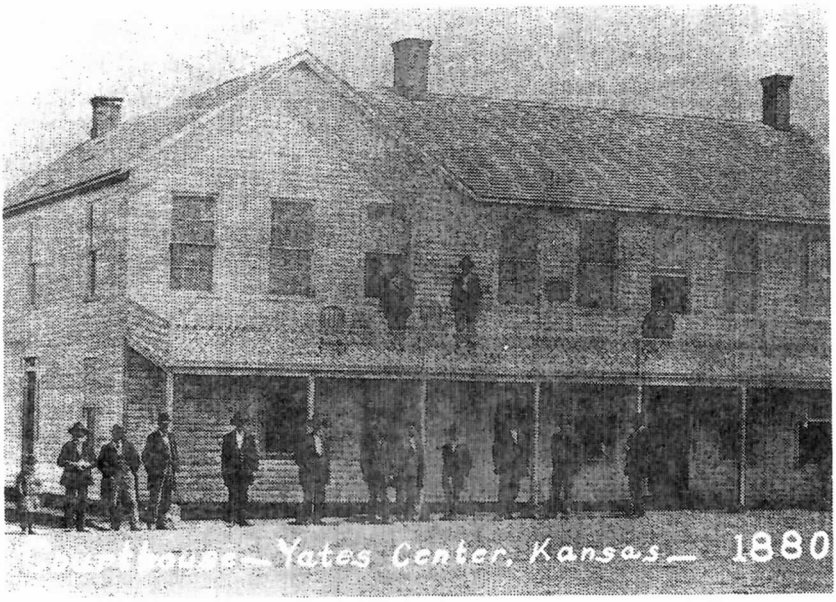
This editor was curious just when the county records were transferred in the transition of the county seat from Defiance to Yates Center. In checking the marriage records we find that the last marriage license issued at Defiance was issued on September 16, 1876, to Wm. S. Killian and May A. Scott, both of Neosho Falls.

The first marriage license issued at Yates Center was on October 9, 1876, to John A. Leathers and Hannah Thuroughman, both of Belmont, Woodson County.

The Probate Judge in both cases was Isaac S. Jones.

The election declaring Yates Center the county seat was on September 12, 1876, four days before the last marriage license was issued at Defiance.



The first court house in Yates Center as it appeared about 1880. It faced the west on the north end of the one hundred block. The part attached to the south side of the original building was added after it had been moved here.

The original building had been moved here from Defiance in 1876. It had been built early in 1874.

Defiance, Kansas-April 14, 1874— "The Town Company deeded the court house and the lot on which it stands to the county for as long as the county seat shall remain at Defiance."

"A beautiful flag waves over the court house at Defiance, in full view of Kalida. How is that for Defiance?"

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The fire of 1894, that destroyed the east side of the square burned up to the south side of this court house but was prevented from burning the building.

The last business done in this court house at Defiance before being moved to Yates Center was September 20, 1876, as the Board of County Commissioners met there.

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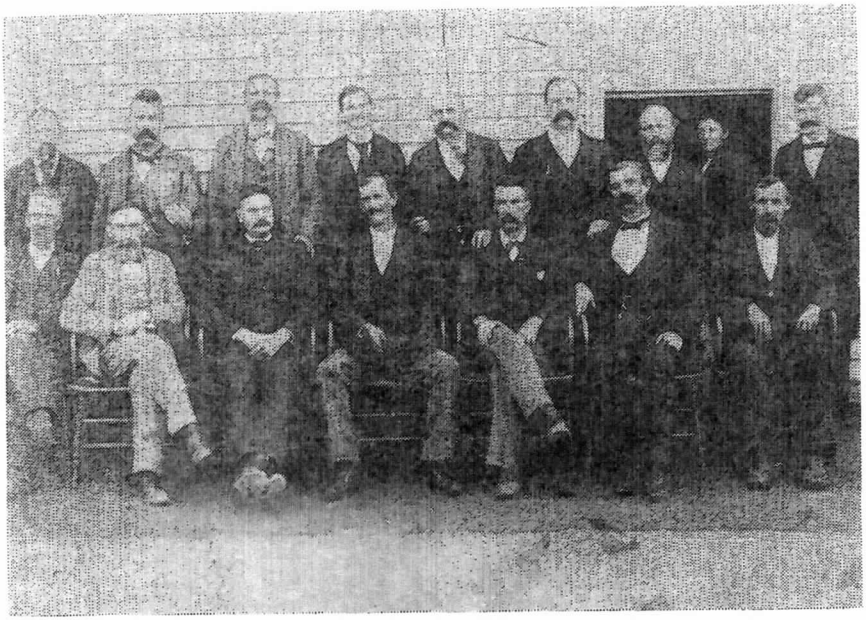
All county business was carried out in this building until the new court house was built in 1899.



Picture of some of the prominent businessmen of Yates Center-1895, taken along the north side of the old court house. Some of these were county officials and some were ex-county officers.

Back row: H. H. McCormick, County Clerk; A. J. Jones, T. L. Reid, Sheriff; Ira Gardner, T. L. Cotter, F. L. Stephenson, Register of Deeds; J. E. Wirick, Miss Mabel Carpenter, Wm. Reedy, Clerk of Court; Front row: Alexander Stewart, R. D. Webster, County Treasurer; G. H. Lamb, County Attorney; A. L. Florence, James Dutre, Probate Judge; A. M. Kannard, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Frank Gepharte.

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YATES CENTER NEWS- June 8, 1895 —

The Yates Center Land, Coal, Oil, Mineral and Gas Company are organized with following officers, W. C. Wille, President; E. W. Haradon, Vice Pres.; J. C. Culver, Treasurer; S. C. Holmes, Attorney and J. B. Dobyns, Secretary.

Two or three days this week members of four oil companies have been here in consultation with two gentlemen from Pennsylvania. They agree to come here as soon as our folks have succeeded in leasing for them ten thousand acres of land, which our people agreed to deliver to them free of cost.

1882

The south side of the square in 1882. The two story stone building on the corner is the present Baker Drug store. The narrow two story building next to it has a furniture sign in front of it.

The next two story building seems to be the building moved here from Kalida by Abner Yates, the first structure in the town. It was the Fry & Faler Land Office. Fry and Faler were also the editors and proprietors of the Yates Center News published at that time. The next building was that of Thomas W. Wilson. After serving as postmaster for awhile Wilson again started a general store. The downstairs of this building also housed a restaurant. The building at the east end of the street with the word HOTEL on it was the Central House, ran by F. G. Lange.

The buildings to the east of the Wilson Store look like stairsteps. The lowest step housed a bakery and confectionary, the next step contained a flour and feed store, the third step housed a confectionary and the fourth and tallest part had the words post office on it. We believe that this was the building belonging to Leonard Wells. He was postmaster of Yates Center from January 30, 1877 till May 23, 1882. Wells was the second postmaster of Yates Center.

The F. G. Lange mentioned above was Ferdinand G. Lange, and ran a hotel at Kalida before coming to Yates Center as the county seat was changed. At Kalida he called his hotel the Iola House. Lange was

evidently of German origin, as he spoke broken English. He had three children, Alice, Awalt and Fred B. Whether Awalt helped his father in the Central we do not know, but after the family all left here Awalt came back and lived in a two-room shack on south side of W. Kansas St., just west of the present depot.

Awalt Lange and his four-footed friend

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"DUTCH JOE" FABISH AND HIS EARLY-DAY WINDMILL —

Just when Joe Fabish came to Yates Center, we never learned. He was a native of Holland and after coming here he wore typical Dutch clothes, of wooden shoes, a black hat and baggy trousers.

Another man, Julious Schmidt was a native of Germany and came to this country and to Woodson County in the 1860's and settled on Cherry Creek. After the founding of Yates Center, he acquired some property in the northwest part of the town. Schmidt decided to build him a windmill on his property at the west end of Sanderson Street, three blocks west and a block south of the old school building.

Joe Fabish helped him in the building. A native stone building of fair size and heighth was built. Schmidt had put a mortgage on his property to finance the mill. About the time it was completed the mill was struck by lightening and completely destroyed. This was the end of the milling dream of Julius Schmidt.

"Dutch Joe" Fabish decided to build a mill on his property two blocks due west of the schoolhouse. The sandstone building was about 14 feet square and about 35 feet high, the large wooden windmill was fastened on a wooden frame that could be moved around the building to face the wind direction.

Fabish lived in the basement of the mill, a leaning ladder affair was built allowing the operator to go up to where the two large stone burrs for grinding were. The shaft was of oak or hickory. Occasionally it was necessary for Dutch Joe to sharpen the stone burrs by chipping with a hammer and chisel.

Many of the natives around would bring corn and wheat to be ground into flour and meal, William H. Jackson recalls as a boy, of visiting the mill and watching "Dutch Joe" grinding flour.

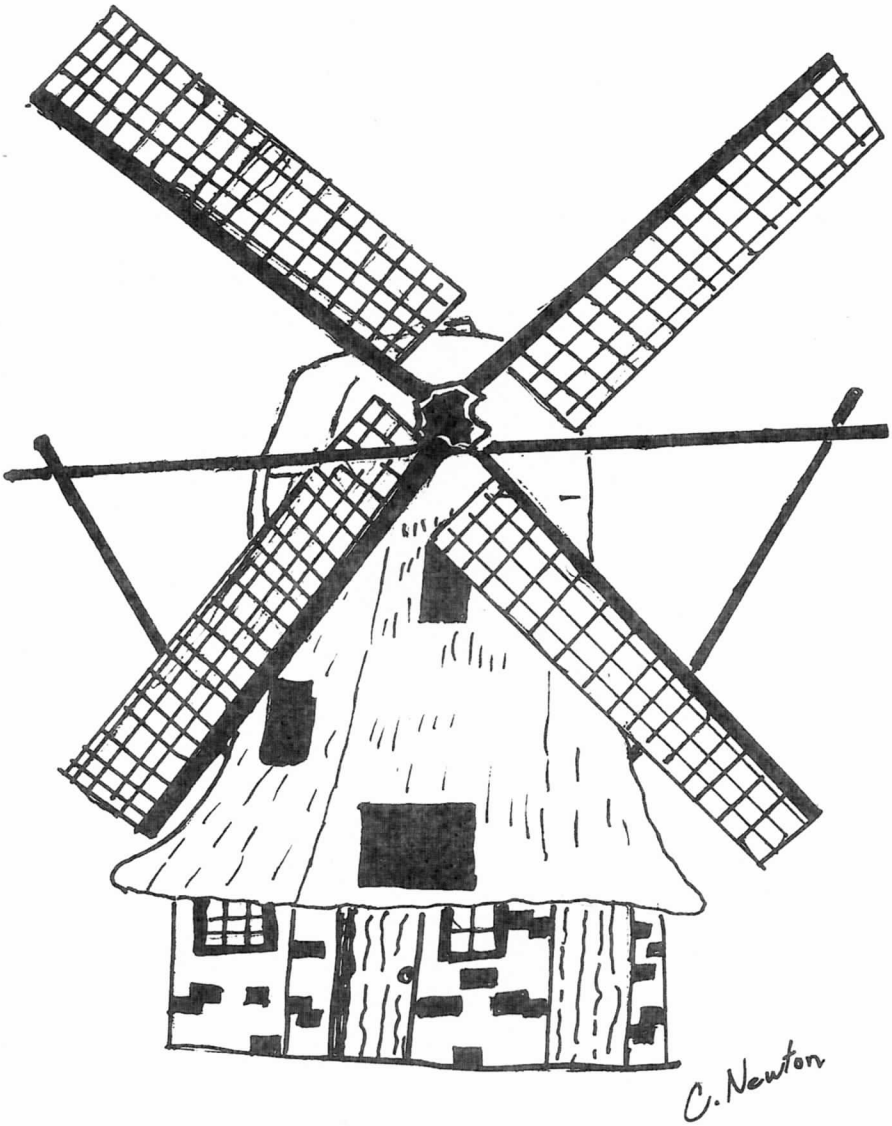
During the life of the mill the fifth grade pupils of the Yates Center schools entered a contest to make a model mill like the old Dutch mill. C. Verne Johnson, in the fifth grade at that time entered the contest. However, his mill would not work right so he went by the big mill and had "Dutch Joe" look it over and with a pair of pliers he fixed the model mill so it would work. Johnson received first place for his model.

Harry Ream, a small boy, went to visit "Dutch Joe", and his mill one day. Finding the door fastened, he looked through a window into the basement. He saw the old Dutchman lying in his bed. He notified some of the neighbors who broke into the mill and found that "Dutch Joe" had been dead for several days.

The coroner appointed William Jackson, John L. Green and F. M. Bell to build a casket and carry out the burial plans. He was buried in the Potter's field in the Yates Center Cemetery.

No one seems to know just where Joe Fabish came from or anything about him. He was a pioneer merchant, of Yates Center, in a way, and lies in an unmarked, unknown grave.

The Julius Schmidt mentioned was a grandfather of Mrs. Gettie Mathews.



Sketched by Chris Newton, age 10, grade 5 - 2-14 - 1975

A fifth grader's version of the old Dutch windmill of Joe Fabish.

IN RUINS!

THE ROW OF FINE BUSINESS HOUSES ON THE EAST SIDE LAID WASTE BY FIRE. WOODSON DEMOCRAT DESTROYED.

Yates Center News-Friday, June 29, 1894 —

About 2 o'clock Thursday morning of this week fire was discovered in J. A. Wagner's Bakery and Restaurant on the east side of the square. City Marshall Cotter and Fred Long, who drives the bus were the first to give the alarm. On account of the dense smoke in the room below and the room above but little could be done to check the onward march of the flames. The fire spread rapidly and only checked by the herioc work at the W. E. Hogueland building south of the court house. The building burned are: Yates Center Bank building consisting of two rooms, the north room occupied by C. A. Baursfeld, the vacant building next to it, J. A. Wagners Restaurant building. Room occupied by Shenk and Sons Meat Market, Capt. R. A. Hurt's building occupied by Butler and Evans, druggists; the vacant building north of that and frame building occupied by T. E. Wharton's Confectionary store. In the Winter building upstairs the Woodson County Democrat, owned by R. R. Wells, office all burned except his subscription list which was saved. The west room in the same building was occupied by Slavens & Lamb. They lost all of their office library and fixtures. The east rooms were occupied by Myers Art Gallery.

Stephenson and Hogueland's papers and library were considerably damaged by moving.

Maj. Plummer lost all of his office furniture, papers etc.

The court house is badly wrecked on account of the haste getting papers, records, safe etc. out of the building, as quickly as possible when everyone thought the building was doomed.

Ed Beam saved his household goods as did George Rutledge. They were upstairs. J. H. Stitcher estimates loss of his library at $600. G. H. Lamb lost his library and office equipment valued at about $500. (These libraries all mentioned were law books).

But for the exertions of C. C. Mills, Mr. Estey, F. L. Stephenson, S. L. Carpenter, and E. W. Haradon the court house would have gone up in smoke.

The court house was then on the northeast corner which is now 112 North Main. The Yates Center Bank building was at the south end of this block.

WILLIAM H. JACKSON—

We would like to pay tribute in this Centennial issue of Yates Center to a man that has been a great help to us in trying to write some of the history of Yates Center. Many times we have gone to see him or call him over the telephone, and while many questions we wanted answered dated back to the early 1880's, it was a rare occasion that he did not come up with something about the person or place. And not just a mention, but most of the time he would come up with many details.

This man is William H. Jackson, who at the age of 95 years still has a splendid memory of Yates Center and surrounding country up until about 1900, when he left the town for greener pastures. To tell the history of Mr. Jackson's life would take a very large volume or more. So we will just give a brief story about him and some of his family.

William H. Jackson at the old organ that he restored and loves to play. His friends enjoy hearing him play some of the old hymns.

* * * * * *

Joseph Jackson, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of England, evidently coming to America as a boy. In 1859 Joseph Jackson, his wife Mary A. and a son, William Jackson, came to Allen County, north of Iola in 1859.

About two years later Joseph Jackson enlisted in Company E, 9th Kansas Volunteer Cavary, at Iola, on October 19, 1861. He was 48 years old at time of enlistment. At the Battle of Westport, near Kansas City, Mo., on June 17, 1863, Joseph Jackson, along with eight of his

companions were killed in action. William Jackson, was just a boy when his father was killed at Westport, stayed with his mother on the Allen County farm until he was married to Eleanor J. Powell in 1869. Both William and Eleanor J., were born in Virginia. Eleanor's mother was a cousin to Gen. Stonewall Jackson.

Wm. Jackson and family came to Woodson County and bought 40 acres from the State of Kansas, (School Land), on May 7, 1879, the SW 1/4 of section 16, Twp. 25, R. 14. This was 8 miles west and a mile south of Yates Center.

It was on this farm that a boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. William Jackson, on October 16, 1879. He was given the name of William H. Jackson.

Sometime in 1885, the Jackson's traded their 40 acre farm for some store goods in Yates Center, and they moved into the town. The store failed in 1887. William H. grew up with the town of Yates Center. Although he was a very small boy when the first train came into Yates Center, but the fact that his father had to get out and hold on to the horses was one reason that he remembered that day.

As a boy and young man William H. Jackson did many jobs around the town, attending the two room schoolhouse on the hill, watching "Dutch Joe" Fabish grind wheat in the old Dutch windmill, helping dig the old well in the courtyard, helping quarry and haul the sandstone for the courthouse basement, doing odd jobs for Abner Yates at his different houses in town, and other jobs around town.

Around 1900, Mr. Jackson left Yates Center, working on the railroad for around four years and was employed in the post office in Kansas City for several years. In 1949, Mr. Jackson and wife Beulah moved back to Yates Center. Mr. and Mrs. Jackson celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in November 1967. They have one son, William G.

During the Spanish-American War, Mr. Jackson was a member of the 40th Regiment U.S. Volunteers.

He has been a National Vice-President of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks.

Mr. Jackson was one of twelve men who organized the Credit Union No. 1, Mail Department workers, this being the first credit union in the State of Missouri.

Besides playing the organ and reminiscing with fellows like me, Mr. Jackson spends quite some time with his Masonic Order. His memory of people and happenings around Yates Center is remarkable.

Happenings Around Yates Center-1881
Taken From the Yates Center News—

June 9- Lange has put in a fine porch on the north and west sides of the Central Hotel. (Central Hotel was built where the present Light Hardware building is.)

Superintendent J. W. Richardson, has bought a fine buggy and team and is out this week visiting the schools of the county.

The Methodists of Turkey Creek are raising money to build a church near the Arnold farm. (At Finney-7 miles north and 2 1/4 miles west of Yates Center)

Liberty Liconies - There are 9,000 taxable sheep in Liberty township, and about 5,000 not taxable, making 14,000 sheep in all, and 250 dogs. We also have 105 school ma'ams, and one champion liar. Is there a township in the state that can beat that?

June 30—Don't forget to attend the Juvenile Concert to be given tomorrow night in Yates Hall.

There are nearly ten thousand pounds of wool stored in town that was bought for 18 cents a pound.

A lot of "Yahoos" went through town Sunday night yelling and running their team. An arrest and fine would do them good.

The public square ought to be mowed. There is a dead dog lying on the vacant lots on the south side of the square, which some one ought to remove.

July 25—The Yates Center Cornet Band will give a lawn festival and concert at the resident of J. W. Depew, Aug. 22, 1881. There will be music, croquet, ice cream, lemonade and lots of fun.

August 18— On Wednesday the thermometer on the north side of the court house registered 111 degrees-this being in the shade. Monday afternoon and Tuesday a good rain fell nearly all over the county. Sodom (Center) and Gomorah (Neosho Falls) didn't get any.

Ferdinand Fricke complained that Dan Miller licked him. Squire Stewart thought it right that Dan should contribute a dollar to the school fund and also give the officers something to live on. Dan done so and went home happily.

October 6— The 'pauper' doctoring was let Monday to Dr. West and Dr. Jones, at one hundred and nine dollars for the whole county. Trustees in 2nd and 3rd Commissioner districts will report sick to Dr. West in Center, and the others to Dr. Jones in Neosho Falls.

There will be a meeting at the (Yates Center) schoolhouse Saturday for the purpose of organizing a Presbyterian Church.

September 29, 1881 —

On last Wednesday morning, Mr. G. Mentzer's two little boys, ages 10 and 12 were hunting in the timber with their dogs. They came across two animals up a tree which they supposed to be coons. They sprang at the oldest boy and came near striking him, when the boy dispatched it with a corn knife. The dogs attacked the other one and with the aid of the boys it was soon killed. The boys took their game to the house and showed them to their father who was surprised to see the boys with two large wild cats. The two little boys that killed the wildcats were Charles and Fred Mentzer.

October 6—

The schools in town were opened Monday a.m. with M.C. Smith and Miss Lizzie Stephenson in charge. The third teacher will probably have to employed. There were 103 pupils enrolled.

Yates Center is represented by five general stores, two hardware stores, two drug stores, one stationery store, two restuarants, three millinery shops, one jewelry store, two shoe shops, one picture gallery, one bank, one furniture store, two hotels, one billiard hall, two livery stables, one printing office, two butcher shops, one barber shop, three real estate dealers, seven lawyers, three blacksmith shops, one wagon shop, one cabinet maker, five doctors, three loan agents, two dress makers, and a half dozen carpenters.

Yates Center now has a population of 470, an increase of 57 1/2 per cent this year.

Every family in Yates Center has a well. Yates Center is one of the best watered towns in Kansas. During the dry weather this summer there was not a time but that the wells afforded plenty of water for the town, the persons visiting and the railroad.

Woodson County Bank, Yates Center, N. F. Fallet, Banker. "I have Halls latest improved safe with patent steel burgler box which is warranted to be drill proof and is guarded by new patent Time Lock.

November 17—

It commenced to rain last Thursday and Friday, the creeks were all over the banks. Mail from Humboldt did not reach us Friday and Saturday. Mail from the Falls did not come Friday. Graders had to quit work for several days. Mud everywhere except on Owl Creek Mountain. The Stockebrand bridge stood the flood alright.

PATRONS OF THE WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

John V. Glades Agency
Woodson County Coop
State Exchange Bank
Street Abstract Co., Inc.
Schornick Oil Co.
Self Service Grocery
Krueger's Variety
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beine
Hi-Way Foodbasket
Piqua Farmers Coop
Gualding Oil Co.
Morton Equipment Co.
Swope & Son Implement Co.
Campbell Plumbing & Electric
Clyde Hill
Cantrell Buick-Pontiac
Paul C. Laidlaw
Roger Brothers Garage
Charles H. Carpenter
Newtex Manufacturing Co.
J. C. Schnell
Smith Furniture & Funeral Home
Superior Building Supply, Inc.
Glenn Shaw
Pringle Ranch-J. W. & J. Richard
W. K. Stockebrand
Security Oil Co.
Woody's Cafe
Kimbell Ranch-Ed Kimbell
Bill Herman
Edwin H. Bideau Associate Agencies, Chanute
Al's Jewelry
First National Bank, Toronto
Blackjack Cattle Co.
Yates Center Elevator
Jasper's Shopping Spot
Bill Taylor-Gen. Agent Woodson Co. Farm Bureau
Atkin Clinic
Daly Western Supply
Pyeatte-Jaynes Ins. Agency
Dyer Chevrolet
Linde Barber Shop
House of Fabrics
Brown's Western Auto
Donald E. Ward
Wilma Mark
Milton Wrampe
Gamble's Friendly Store
E. E. Light
Yates Center News
Everybody's Grocery
Baker Rexall Drug Store
Yates Center Skelgas Service
Campbell Furniture & Undertaking
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Baker
Piqua State Bank
McGinty-Coffman Dept. Store
E. Guy Reid
J & W Manufacturing Co.
Wendall McMurray